

TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA
NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Item # 1 – Acceptance of minutes from September 15, 2003 Traffic Commission Meeting

Item # 2 – Request from Design Consultants, representing Somerville Housing Group, for improvements to traffic movement and safety on Columbia St. Requested improvements are to restrict parking at 481 Columbia St from the driveway entrance at the garage northward for a distance of 60 feet. (See Letter) This was not the initial request made by Design Consultants but rather a modified proposal resulting from numerous interviews with property and business owners of this street. The Department of Traffic & Parking is recommending that the initial request be approved, which is as follows: a 30-foot parking restriction on the northeast corner of Columbia @ Webster (to improve visibility for vehicles turning northward onto Webster Av) and the elimination of parking on the west side of Columbia St so that it will become a functioning two-way street with both a southbound and northbound travel lane. We feel this is necessary due to the potential for up to 350+ additional trips added to the volume of traffic on Columbia Street as a result of the new parking garage that holds 350+ vehicles. Another potential alternative would be changing the street to a one-way. However, this is not preferred due to coordination issues with the City of Cambridge (half the street is owned by Cambridge). The developer's engineer was directed to contact Cambridge regarding the no parking on one side

Item # 3 – Presentation by Mass Highway and consultants from the City of Boston regarding plans for the demolition of the Rutherford Av overpass

Item # 4 – Request to restrict parking on west side of Kensington Av (Mon-Fri 7am-11am) 230 ft north of Broadway extending 154 ft north to accommodate truck deliveries – this would eliminate only 3-4 parking spaces due to existing driveway curb cuts and fire hydrant (Steve Gangi of Gangi Printing will appear) see attached

Note: Apparently, since the submission of the request and our review, the Fire Department has agreed to allow Gangi Printing to have a key for the bollards at the end of Kensington Avenue, which would negate the need for the proposed restrictions. (For details, please ask Deputy Chief Tom Graney)

Item # 5 – Request for Handicapped Parking

7 Bigelow St – recommend approval

79 Bonair St – recommend approval

60 Cameron Av – recommend approval

8 Edgar Ct – recommend approval

12 Hathorn St – recommend approval

23 Lincoln St – recommend approval

106 School St – recommend approval

111 Heath St – Relocation of HP space originally approved for 33 Main St (resident moved), recommend approval

Item # 6 – Request for Fire Lane

Elm Pl – request to extend existing fire lane to prohibit parking in vicinity of the newly installed fire hydrant

Gussie Ter at Linden Av

Gussie Ter at Porter St

Item # 7 – Request for a Stop Sign (Alderman Board Order)

Fenwick St @ Heath St

This may be a possibility. TMB would like to collect data before making final recommendation. The Stop sign should not be installed for the sole purpose of slowing vehicles down.

Item # 8 – Request for Crosswalk (Alderman Board Order)

Pearl St (from Pearl St Park sidewalk across to Bus Stop)

Item # 9 - Request for No Parking Anytime (Alderman Board Order)

Hinckley St at Broadway

Item # 10 – Request from resident of 15 Mountain Av to place a driveway on Conwell St (at the dead end which abuts the rear of his property)

The request came through to Rich Scully of the Highway Department. Rich contacted TMB because it is unusual case. Typically, a new driveway curb cut removes an on-street parking space because of the cut in the granite curb. In this case, the “cut” is in the property owner’s driveway versus in the City’s curb. But in order to utilize this proposed driveway, one on-street parking space along the west side of Conwell Street would have to be posted as no parking. Because the proposal is for 2 off-street parking spaces with the removal of 1 on-street parking space (a net gain of 1), TMB recommends approval.

Item # 11 – Request for Parking Restrictions around the Capuano School

Proposed Parking Restrictions: (see Map with color code, note: ignore text in pencil)

School Bus Stop, 7AM - 4PM, Mon.- Fri., Sept. - June

On east side of **Glen Street**, 225 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 50 ft. north (note: 1 space)

School Van Stop, 7AM - 4PM, Mon.- Fri., Sept. - June

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 105 ft. south of Palmer Ave, extending 45 ft. south (note: 2 spaces)

School Pick-Up/Drop-Off, 30 Min Limit, 7AM - 4PM, Mon. - Fri., Sept. - June

On east side of **Glen Street**, 117 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 18 ft. north (note: 1 space)

On east side of **Glen Street**, 166 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 56 ft. north (note: 3 spaces)

On east side of **Glen Street**, 307 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 180 ft. north (note: 8 spaces)

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 23 ft. north of Palmer Ave, extending 45 ft. north (note: 2 spaces)

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 20 ft. south of Palmer Ave, extending 45 ft. south (note: 2 spaces)

On east side of **Oliver Street**, 20 ft. east of Glen St, extending 80 ft. east (note: 4 spaces)

On east side of **Fountain Avenue**, 75 ft. west of Glen St, extending 58 ft. east (note: 3 spaces)

Fire Lane

On east side of **Glen Street**, 135 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 31 ft. north

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 65 ft. south of Palmer Ave, extending 38 ft. south

No Parking Anytime

On east side of **Glen Street**, 275 ft. north of Knowlton St, extending 35 ft. north

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 67 ft. north of Palmer Ave, extending 20 ft. north (near p-lot entrance)

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 23 ft. north of Palmer Ave, extending 23 ft. south

On west side of **Franklin Street**, 150 ft. south of Palmer Ave, extending 28 ft. south

*Note: Also post 3 School Parking Lots for "School Department Permit Only, 7-4, mon-fri, sept-june"

(Traffic Commission approval not needed because not on public right of way.)

Item # 12 – Items for Discussion

Prohibiting the possession or use of any traffic signal pre-emption device, except by authorized vehicles (see letter sent by Lt. Upton to Lisa Mead City Solicitor)

TMB concurs but believes that the Traffic Commission should reserve the right to approve the use of the devices to certain agencies, as they deem necessary. As of right now, we recommend that only the Fire Dept. have the authority to use such devices.

Note: Possible future uses could include the Police, Ambulances, and MBTA buses as the technology advances to include better prioritization of such devices. Again, this would be only upon approval of the Traffic Commission with recommendations from the Director and/or Engineer. As of right now, we do not recommend the use of the devices by any other agency but the Fire Dept.